

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of managing electronic documents comprising:
 - providing a user with access to a plurality of electronic documents;
 - ~~storing a plurality of electronic documents in a database;~~
 - associating a first set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with ~~to~~ a first case, wherein the first case corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein associating the first set of electronic documents with the first case comprises identifying the first set of electronic documents as relevant to the first patent application;
 - associating a second set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with ~~to~~ a second case, wherein the second case corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein associating the second set of electronic documents with the second case comprises identifying the second set of electronic documents as relevant to the second patent application;
 - ~~allowing the user to select~~ receiving a select signal from a user, the select signal selecting at least one electronic document in the second set of the second one or more of the plurality of electronic documents associated with the second case to be associated with the first case; and
 - associating the selected ~~at least one of the second one or more of the plurality of electronic document with documents~~ to the first case in response to the select signal.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying the second case and links to the ~~second one or more of the plurality of~~ electronic patent documents in the second set for the to a user.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the second case further comprises displaying a third case and links to a third set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic patent documents to a user, the third case corresponding to a third patent application and being associated ~~associate~~ with the third set ~~one or more of the plurality of~~ electronic patent documents.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying document references for the electronic documents in the first and second sets ~~first and second one or more of the plurality of electronic documents associated with the first and second cases, respectively,~~ in individual rows of a first column, and displaying first and second case identifiers at the top of second and third columns, wherein the rows of the second column include a marker when the electronic document corresponding to the row is associated with the first case, and wherein the rows of the third column include a marker when the electronic document corresponding to the row is associated with the second case.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first case and second case are related cases.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the first case and second case have a common inventor.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the first case and second case have the same assignee.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the second case relates to a continuation patent application of the first case.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the second case relates to a continuation-in-part patent application of the first case.
10. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising displaying a search screen to search for additional cases related to the first case.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic documents is an electronic version of a United States Patent.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic documents is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic documents is an electronic version of a publication.
14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of electronic documents comprises storing at least some of the plurality of electronic documents in a database.
15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of electronic documents comprises storing in a database information from at least some of the plurality of electronic documents.
16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of electronic documents comprises allowing a user to search the web for electronic documents.
17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a user with access to a plurality of electronic documents comprises allowing a user to search a database of electronic documents.
18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the database is maintained by an official patent office.

19. (New) A system for managing electronic documents, the system comprising:
a processor; and
a computer readable medium in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium comprising a set of instructions executable by the processor, the set of instructions comprising:

- (a) instructions to provide a user with access to a plurality of electronic documents;
- (b) instructions to associate a first set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a first case, wherein the first case corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein associating the first set of electronic documents with the first case comprises identifying the first set of electronic documents as relevant to the first patent application;
- (c) instructions to associate a second set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a second case, wherein the second case corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein associating the second set of electronic documents with the second case comprises identifying the second set of electronic documents as relevant to the second patent application;
- (d) instructions to allow the user to select at least one electronic document in the second set to be associated with the first case; and
- (e) instructions to associate the selected at least one electronic document with the first case.

20. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program comprising a set of instructions executable by one or more computers, the set of instructions comprising:

- (a) instructions to provide a user with access to a plurality of electronic documents;
- (b) instructions to associate a first set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a first case, wherein the first case

corresponds to a first patent application, and wherein associating the first set of electronic documents with the first case comprises identifying the first set of electronic documents as relevant to the first patent application;

(c) instructions to associate a second set of electronic documents, comprising one or more of the plurality of electronic documents, with a second case, wherein the second case corresponds to a second patent application, and wherein associating the second set of electronic documents with the second case comprises identifying the second set of electronic documents as relevant to the second patent application;

(d) instructions to allow the user to select at least one electronic document in the second set to be associated with the first case; and

(e) instructions to associate the selected at least one electronic document with the first case.